

Joint Hill Group Notes U.S. Lacks Antimissile Setup

Are intercontinental

In a short and low-key report on China's nuclear weaponry, the prestigious committee of Senate and House members noted that "at present we do not have an effective antiballistic-missile system which could repel such a suicidal (for the Chinese) but nevertheless possible strike."

The new analysis is likely to add pressure on the Administration to begin deployment of the so-called "thin" antimissile defense system designed to meet such a Chinese threat.

The Joint Committee report said in part:

See NUCLEAR A6, Col. 6

"On the basis of our present knowledge, we believe that the Chinese probably will achieve an operational ICBM capability before 1972. Conceivably, it could be ready as early as 1970-71.

The report also expressed belief that China has already developed an intermediate range missile but said there was no evidence of deployment of such MRBMs. By "about 1970," however, China could develop MRBMs with thermonuclear warheads yielding a few hundred kilotons of explosive power, and by about 1972, according to the report, China could probably have a

The Committee report added that "the internal strife in Red China appears to have had little, if any, effect on their nuclear weapons program to date."

As to submarines, the report expressed belief that the Chinese are interested in developing craft "with suitable relatively long-range missiles" but "we have not determined the exact nature of the program."

The report also said that the Chinese are well ahead of the French in thermonuclear weapon design since France has yet to test "a true thermonuclear device" or to achieve a mega-

The report said all five 1966 French tests were aimed at thermonuclear development and that three tests in June and July this year were devices suspended by balloons over the Mururoa Lagoon in the Pacific. French yields in test have been as high as 250 kilotons, higher than that of the Chinese fission devices. The French were also credited with having a stockpile of at least one nuclear weapon, in the range of 60 to 70 kilotons, for each of about 60 Mirage IV aircraft.

The British have no missile program other than the construction of four Polaris submarines, with 16 nuclear missiles each, by 1969-70. The first is due to be operational in 1968.